

March 2012
Newsletter



PRAIRIE FALCON

Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter Newsletter

Thursday

March 22

**First United Methodist
Church**

Media Center

117 N. Central Ave

7:30 pm

Presenter:

Bill Bossman

“Birding Cape May”

Bird of the Month

Kris Dozark

“Himalayan Snowcock”

Migration Starts

There have been many reports around the state on migrating birds. There were reports of over a million snow geese being seen around the Sand Lake NWR area in Brown County! Many other different kinds of waterfowl including canvasbacks, green-winged teal, and other ducks have been reported from around the state. There also have been reports of grouse (sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chickens) displaying at leks. Can't wait to see this occurring on the grasslands!!!

Old Bird

On March 10, 2012, Scott Stolz and Ricky Olson found an American Dipper in Spearfish Canyon that Doug Backlund had banded back in April of 2005. This makes the dipper at least 7 years and 9 months old. Congratulations!!! She broke the longevity record by 7 months. You can read more about her on Doug's fantastic website:

<http://www.wildphotosphotography.com/WildPhotos/BIRDS/amdi.htm>

ABA Codes

After reading The Big Year by Mark Obmascik, I decided to look into the ABA system of bird coding a little more in-depth. The ABA uses different codes to distinguish between the rarity of birds. The easiest birds to find receive a code 1 while the hardest birds to find receive a code 5. Code 5 is defined as species that are recorded five or fewer times in the ABA checklist area, or fewer than three records in the past 30 years. As of March 14, 2012, there was a “code 5” Barnacle Goose with a flock of Greater White-fronted Geese in the Hinsdale, New Hampshire area. The last time a “code 5” bird was located in South Dakota was when an Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush was found in the Black Hills in the summer of 2010.

UPCOMING EVENTS

—Bluebird House Cleaning at the Farm Island Visitor Center

March 24, 2012 @ 1 pm

—Earth Day Event at the Discovery Center in Pierre

April 22, 2012

—Lynn Barber presentation on “Extreme Birder: One Woman's Big Year”

April 26, 2012

—Annual Spring Picnic

Early May

MISSOURI BREAKS
AUDUBON CHAPTER

National Audubon Society
Box 832, Pierre, SD 57501

Established 1978

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Be Green — Get this newsletter online

As a member of the National Audubon Society in Hughes and Stanley counties, you receive a copy of this newsletter as part of your membership. New mailing regulations require a different format and sticky tags to support machine readability at the post office. This adds to our handling time for paper copies of the newsletter.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail instead of hard copy (saving trees, postage, handling, and trash), send your e-mail address to info@MissouriBreaksAudubon.org. We won't share your address with anyone, and you can unsubscribe at any time. Of course, if you don't want the hard-copy either, let us know and we'll take care of that, too.

New Website Location

This newsletter, a downloadable calendar, and other valuable birding links are all available at our new website, <http://www.missouribreaksaudubon.org>

RESTORE Act Offers New Hope for Gulf from Wingspan 3.12 (Audubon newsletter)

The U.S. Senate voted to allow some funding for the restoration of the Gulf of Mexico as well as funds for the preservation of American land. The act will specifically direct 80% of Clean Water Act penalties resulting from oil spills to the restoration of Gulf Coast environments. It also ensures that funds will be spent responsibly and for their intended purposes. The act will also provide \$1.4 billion over the next two years for the Land and Water Conservation fund for acquiring and protecting lands across America